

**DIXIE TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (DTEC)**  
**MINUTES**  
**February 17, 2016**

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT**

Zachary Renstrom, County Commission  
Chairman Chris Hart, Ivins Mayor  
John Bramall, Hurricane Mayor  
Wayne Peterson, Leeds Mayor  
Rick Rosenberg, Santa Clara Mayor for Ken Sizemore, Santa Clara City Council  
Darrin LeFevre, Toquerville Mayor  
Naghi Zeenati, Utah Transportation Commission, Region 4  
Bette Arial, St. George City Council, Senator Mike Lee's Office  
Jimmie Hughes, St. George City

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Alan Gardner, County Commission Chair  
Bruce Densley, Virgin Mayor  
Stan Smith, Springdale Mayor  
Kyle Gubler, LaVerkin City Administrator  
Cameron Cutler, St. George City  
Arthur Lebaron, Hurricane City  
Jim McConnell, UDOT Program Engineer, Region 4  
Rick Torgerson, UDOT Regional Director, Region 4  
Myron Lee, Dixie MPO  
Dave Demas, Dixie MPO  
Brian Tritle, St. George Field Manager, BLM  
Chuck Gillett, Ivins City  
Susan Crook, Citizens for Dixie's Future  
Bob Lamoreaux, Stanley Consultants  
Mike Shaw, Washington City  
Ahamad Jaber, Stanley Consultants  
Robert Grow, Envision Utah  
Jason Brown, Envision Utah

**EXCUSED**

Vice Chairman Jon Pike, St. George Mayor  
Jeff Turek, Washington City Council

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Chris Hart welcomed all in attendance and introductions were made. It was established that a quorum exists for voting on action items.

## **BUSINESS**

### **A. Approval of Minutes from November 18, 2015 Meeting**

Mayor Peterson discussed the wording in reference to the speed limit changes stating that mile marker 0 to 3.5 was lowered to 70 and from 3.5 to 11 it was raised to 70 miles per hour. The minutes will reflect that from 0 to 11 the speed limit will move to 70 miles per hour.

**MOTION: Motion by Mayor Peterson to Approve the Minutes as Amended from the November 18, 2015, DTEC meeting. Motion seconded by Bette Arial and carried by unanimous vote.**

### **B. 2020 TIP Fund Recommendation**

- i. River Road Widening
- ii. Merrill Road Construction

Myron Lee stated that in December the Dixie Transportation Advisory Committee (DTAC) chose the following two (2) projects for funding in the 2020 year: River Road widening and the Merrill Road construction in Washington City.

DTAC has recommended that these projects be programmed for funding in the 2020 State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) year in the following manner: \$1 million to the Merrill Road project and \$1.4 Million to the River Road and bridge widening project. DTAC would like the Dixie Transportation Executive Committee (DTEC) to adopt this recommendation through a motion, at which time it will be submitted to the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) for inclusion in STIP.

**MOTION: Motion by Mayor Bramall to Approve the 2020 TIP Fund Recommendation. Motion seconded by Naghi Zeenati and carried by unanimous vote.**

## **REPORTS / DISCUSSIONS**

Chairman Hart asked for a motion to suspend the rules and move item 4D ahead of item 4A to allow Robert Grow and Jason Brown to make their presentation at this time so that they can make their flight.

**MOTION: Motion by Mayor Bramall to Suspend the Rules as Presented. Motion seconded by Bette Arial and carried by unanimous vote.**

### **D. Envision Utah**

Robert Grow distributed twelve (12) small books which encompassed the results of the visioning effort the Governor led and Envision Utah facilitated for the last three (3)

years. Mr. Grow explained that more than 400 experts from across the state worked together to identify eleven (11) key areas and from that created eleven (11) individual books titled: agriculture, air quality, disaster resilience, education, energy, housing and cost of living, jobs and economy, public lands, recreation, transportation and communities, and water. The twelfth (12) book was a combination of the other eleven books and encompassed all the topics into a single vision.

Mr. Grow continued by giving a PowerPoint presentation and explained that today, three (3) million people call Utah home, but our population is projected to almost double by 2050, so planning is critical.

As the PowerPoint presentation finished, Mr. Grow stated that the best use of the Dixie Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO)'s time would be to work with the cities to determine what each city's ideas and objectives are, while understanding what the market forces will do. Then connecting all the concepts and packaging them into one model, listing all the choices to determine the strategy of how to accomplish the overall goals. Also, working with real estate developers and marketing firms might be beneficial in determining the shifts that might be coming between now and 2050, in regards to matters such as: internet sales and sales tax base.

The Lake Powell pipeline was mentioned briefly stating that views are shifting, and will continue to be an issue. One scenario that was modeled stated that if all the water was taken from every piece of agricultural land in Kane and Washington Counties and given to St. George as well as zero-scaping everything, including the temple grounds, water would still run out by 2045. Individuals have debated in regards to the accuracy of that scenario but the model was prepared by the best water experts available.

Mr. Grow expressed that the public has a real interest in preserving agriculture in Utah. There has been a 20% shift in Utah on the importance of agriculture, going from 53% who say it's critical to our future, to 74% in seven years.

Mayor Hart spoke in regards to the Vision Dixie principles and how it is still being implemented by all the municipalities. Having Vision Dixie last updated in 2007, he questioned whether it was time to do a tune-up. Mr. Grow stated that it was important to think about updating plans once every decade and suggested it be updated in conjunction with the new Transportation Plan and stated that Envision Utah would be glad to facilitate with the process.

(See attached for the PowerPoint presentation)

#### **A. Unified Transportation Plan**

Mr. Lee distributed the Unified Transportation Plan book, which is also available on-line in an interactive format. This book is a compilation of the Long-Range Transportation

Plan from the Dixie MPO, the other three (3) MPO's in the state and UDOT's Long-Range Plan.

(See attached for the Unified Transportation Plan book)

## **B. Transportation Expo Report**

Mr. Lee stated that the Transportation Expo was another great success with 610 visitors. A number of projects were displayed and very informed comments from the public were received, which are now being taken under consideration.

A similar survey to last year was again distributed with additional questions being added this year. One question captured the age of the participant and from that the following was identified: more than half of the people that attended the Expo were over the age of sixty-five (65), one-third (1/3<sup>rd</sup>) were between fifty-five (55) and sixty-four (64) and less than one-third (1/3<sup>rd</sup>) were younger than fifty-five (55) years old.

A full Expo report will be presented at the next DTEC meeting where statistics will be presented.

Bette Arial commented that the graphics that were used at the Expo were wonderful, easy to understand and the public was extremely engaged.

## **C. BLM Resource Management Plan Report**

Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) St. George Field Manager Brian Tritle stated that the BLM is still in the developmental phase of the proposed Resource Management Plans (RMPs). With the extension that the BLM granted, the comment period for the draft RMP ended in mid-November. The BLM is under a court ordered deadline to get proposed RMPs out for the Governor's review by the end of June, but has requested an extension to the end of the 2016 calendar year, which the County has supported through a resolution. There is a hearing scheduled in mid-March in regards to the extension request. The BLM continues to work with the County by holding bi-weekly meetings to systematically work through each major issue. The BLM received approximately 15,000 comments on the RMP draft and has been working on the comment analysis; partnering with an enterprise team within the Forest Service, that is an independent contractor and an acting organization that specializes in planning, comment and content analysis. The BLM hopes to have proposed RMPs available by the spring.

Brian Tritle received comments and questions in regards to the importance and status of the much needed Northern Corridor that was promised in previous years but was unable to give a definitive response and expressed that it will be in the proposed RMPs when released. Jimmie Hughes noted that this body, comprised of elected officials, to

date has not opposed the need for the Northern Corridor, which speaks volumes and should send a clear message that this is what the people want and need to survive as communities and should be taken into serious consideration. Mr. Tritle expressed that the information he has previously read in regards to the Northern Corridor seemed to express the continuing of the coordination and cooperation towards an eventual route selection and hopes for the continuation of that since it hasn't been determined yet where that route should be or how it should be built, although locally the need for it is well known. Commissioner Renstrom asked Mr. Tritle if it would be helpful to hire an engineering firm to establish a preliminary thirty percent (30%) design standard, suggesting where the road should be placed and presenting that to the BLM and to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife. Mr. Lee stated that the MPO previously requested language be added to the RMP that would allow the MPO the option to do a full Environmental Assessment (EA) on the placement of the road to determine where the least impactful place would be to position the road, both to construction as well as the natural environment. In answering Commissioner Renstrom's question, Mr. Tritle stated the answer would be yes, although, it would be in the County's best interest, relative to the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), to be calculating on when to proceed.

#### **D. Envision Utah**

Previously discussed.

#### **E. JPAC Report**

Mr. Lee reported that JPAC was held on February 2, 2016 and the next meeting is anticipated to be the first week of March. There was a discussion on the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. There was a legislative update which included proposed modifications to House Bill 362 and noise permits for construction night work. The recently released Unified Transportation Plan was also addressed as well as potential legislation that would shift funding from transportation projects to water projects, which could have direct implications towards the Lake Powell Pipeline. Mr. Lee finished by stating that safety continues to be the number one concern across the state for transportation projects.

### **UDOT/FHWA BUSINESS UPDATES**

#### **A. UDOT Updates**

Rick Torgerson stated that the Southern Parkway opened between Washington Dam road and Warner Valley.

Mr. Torgerson continued by explaining that the Mall Drive project is planned to be bid by the end of March and will be under construction between Exit 8 and Exit 10 this summer.

He also noted that a designer is being hired for Exit 4 to Exit 5 to complete the widening of I-15 with two (2) new bridges across the river, and is anticipated to be under construction around January or February of 2017.

Mr. Torgerson also mentioned that UDOT is working to fully understand all that the FAST Act bill entails, but stated that there is a full freight program that has been included in the bill and determining at this point what type of funding and resources that portion gives for freight mobility.

Jim McConnell will be taking Dana Meier's place at UDOT and will be focusing more on the construction projects due to UDOT moving into heavy construction over the next four (4) to five (5) years across the State of Utah.

## **B. Federal Updates**

### **i. Federal Transportation Reauthorization**

Bette Arial stated that in December the House of Representatives overwhelming approved the FAST Act with a vote of 359 to sixty-five (65) and is a five (5) year legislation to improve the Nation's Surface transportation infrastructure, including roads, bridges, transit systems, and rail transportation network. This was a bipartisan agreement produced by the House-Senate Conference Committee that was tasked with resolving the differences between the surface transportation bills passed earlier in 2015 in the House and Senate.

Mr. Lee stated that the Federal Government had to actually identify seventy (70) billion dollars' worth of transfers from the Federal General Fund to the Transportation Fund in order to get the unanimous vote.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was presented at this time.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Next Scheduled DTEC meeting: March 16, 2016

## **ADJOURN**

Having no other business, Chairman Hart adjourned the meeting at 1:40 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Nicholle Felshaw